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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY USSR (Latvian SSR)

SUBJECT Shift of Radio Production at the VEF and POPOV Combinates
Riga to Military Purposes/Supervision by Soviet Engineers

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1. "Two important radio equipment plants in Riga, Latvian S.S.R., switched in March 1953 to the production of radio sets for Soviet submarines. These plants are the POPOV Combinate and the VEF Combinate.
2. "In the POPOV Combinate, Soviet engineers and technicians took over the management of radio set production at the beginning of March 1953. The director of the combinate, (fnu) Zaklis, a Latvian, was transferred to another plant in Riga. His position was taken over by a Soviet engineer, (fnu) Klavin. Another Soviet, a Soviet Army officer, Eng. (fnu) Rogov, was appointed chief of production.
3. "In the VEF Combinate, which is the largest radio plant in the Baltic States, the production of popular radio sets of the MIR type, has been considerably cut down. Only radio sets of the BALTICA type, destined for export to Asiatic countries (mainly China), are still being manufactured at the same production rate. The radio experimental section ('Tsakh') at the VEF Combinate has been entirely taken over by a 'Kompleksnaya Brigada', headed by the Soviet engineers" (fnu) Guchalenko, (fnu) Soleparov, (fnu) Sereda and (fnu) Kubaev. 'Kompleksnaya Brigada' is the term for a team of engineers, technicians and workers assigned to a particular phase of production and working as one operational unit.
4. "The paper called 'Vefovets', published by the VEF Combinate, in its issue of 6 April 53 unwittingly disclosed the shift of production in the plant to military purposes. It has been confiscated by the authorities."

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